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Bonus for Motorists

It isn't often that Washington area motorists get a bonus. Such a gift has been handed them, and gratefully received, in the opening of a beautiful and functional extension of the George Washington Memorial parkway between Spout Run and Route 123 in Virginia—one of the few bright developments in the region's snail-paced highway program.

Just across the Potomac, however, motorists still are patiently awaiting a companion parkway along the Maryland bluffs, the plans for which some years ago were in a more advanced stage than the Virginia project. "All the right of way for the Maryland parkway between the District line and Cabin John has been acquired, and designs for it have been drawn and redrawn ad infinitum by the National Park Service. Yet only a two-lane section—half the parkway's ultimate width—slowly is taking form today.

Why the spurt of progress by the park service in Virginia? The answer, we're afraid, is that slight credit is due the park service for speedy action. The real thanks go to the Central Intelligence Agency, which received a whopping appropriation through Congress in order to insure that the parkway would be ready to serve its new \$46 million headquarters near Langley.

The CIA center won't be completed until 1961, so the parkway's opening is a welcome boon to Virginia's hard-pressed motorists. But the time also is overdue for other areas, not fortunate enough to have a CIA to spur construction, also to realize benefits of the long-promised plans.

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